

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Worcester and Middlesex Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Worcester and Middlesex Senatorial District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 2.5% (2,958) reside in the Worcester and Middlesex Senatorial District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (562) of Worcester and Middlesex Senatorial District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 76.5% of admissions from the Worcester and Middlesex Senatorial District were male and 23.5% were female.
- Over 61.3% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 73.3% of admissions were white non-Latino, 4.7% were black non-Latino, 19.2% were Latino, 0.1% were Asians, and 2.8% were other racial categories.
- 63.2% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 12.7% were married, and 17.7% reported not to be married now.
- 33.4% of admissions had less than high school education, 45.3% completed high school, and 21.3% had more than high school education.
- 29.2% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 18.4% of those admitted were homeless.
- 14.1% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

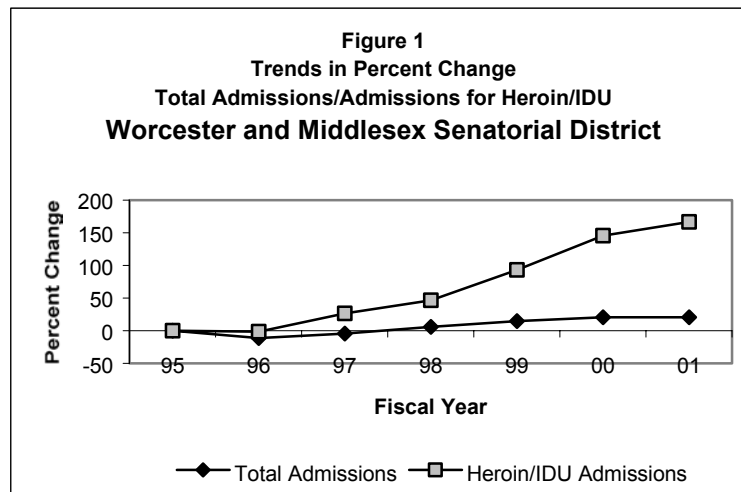
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Worcester and Middlesex Senatorial District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Worcester and Middlesex Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	2,453	2,110	826	750	743	599	392
FY '96	2,180	1,859	765	682	597	600	377
FY '97	2,347	1,913	831	767	541	751	502
FY '98	2,603	2,118	924	755	508	891	562
FY '99	2,811	2,150	1,023	864	572	1,113	799
FY '00	2,959	2,149	1,041	863	638	1,398	1,034
FY '01	2,958	1,947	848	777	558	1,529	1,112

- Since FY 1995, residents of Worcester and Middlesex Senatorial District reported a leveling off in marijuana and cocaine use.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting alcohol and crack use have decreased, while heroin use increased by 155%.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Worcester and Middlesex Senatorial District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 20% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased 166%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Worcester and Middlesex Senatorial District.

	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	38.7%	48.9%	4.9%	2.9%	2.6 %
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine as a primary drug of use in your Senatorial District was lower than the State average, heroin as a primary drug was higher within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000